



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 128

February Session, 2000

Substitute House Bill No. 5052

House of Representatives, March 20, 2000

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. LAWLOR of the 99th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

An Act Concerning Enforcement Of Violations Of Provisions Regarding Certain Companion Animals.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 22-358 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (c) If such officer finds that the complainant has been bitten or
4 attacked by such dog, cat or other animal when the complainant was
5 not upon the premises of the owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other
6 animal the officer shall quarantine such dog, cat or other animal in a
7 public pound or order the owner or keeper to quarantine it in a
8 veterinary hospital, kennel or other building or enclosure approved by
9 the commissioner for such purpose. When any dog, cat or other animal
10 has bitten a person on the premises of the owner or keeper of such
11 dog, cat or other animal, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal
12 control officer, any municipal animal control officer or regional animal
13 control officer may quarantine such dog, cat or other animal on the

14 premises of the owner or keeper of such dog, cat or other animal. The
15 commissioner, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any animal control
16 officer, any municipal animal control officer or any regional animal
17 control officer may make any order concerning the restraint or
18 disposal of any biting dog, cat or other animal as [he] the
19 commissioner or such officer deems necessary. Notice of any such
20 order shall be given to the person bitten by such dog, cat or other
21 animal within twenty-four hours. The owner shall pay five dollars per
22 day for the board of any such dog, cat or other animal while it is
23 quarantined in a public pound in addition to any other legal fees that
24 may be due. On the fourteenth day of such quarantine the dog, cat or
25 other animal shall be examined by the commissioner or someone
26 designated by [him] the commissioner to determine whether such
27 quarantine shall be continued or removed. Whenever any quarantine
28 is ordered under the provisions of this section, notice thereof shall be
29 given to the commissioner and to the person bitten or attacked by such
30 dog, cat or other animal within twenty-four hours. Any owner or
31 keeper of such dog, cat or other animal who fails to comply with such
32 order shall be fined not more than [twenty-five] two hundred fifty
33 dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or both. If an owner or
34 keeper fails to comply with a quarantine or restraining order made
35 pursuant to this subsection, the Chief Animal Control Officer, any
36 animal control officer, any municipal animal control officer or regional
37 animal control officer may seize the dog, cat or other animal to insure
38 such compliance and the owner or keeper shall be responsible for any
39 expenses resulting from such seizure. Any person aggrieved by an
40 order of any municipal animal control officer, the Chief Animal
41 Control Officer, any animal control officer or any regional animal
42 control officer may request a hearing before the commissioner within
43 fourteen days of the issuance of such order. After such hearing, the
44 commissioner may affirm, modify or revoke such order as [he] the
45 commissioner deems proper. Any dog owned by a police agency of the
46 state or any of its political subdivisions is exempt from the provisions

47 of this subsection when such dog is under the direct supervision, care
48 and control of an assigned police officer, has been vaccinated annually
49 and is subject to routine veterinary care.

50 Sec. 2. Section 22-367 of the general statutes is repealed and the
51 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

52 Any person owning, keeping or harboring a dog or cat or
53 maintaining a kennel or commercial kennel who violates any provision
54 of this chapter for the violation of which no other penalty is provided,
55 or any regulation legally made and published for restraining or
56 destroying dogs or cats, shall be fined not less than [twenty-five
57 dollars nor more than] two hundred fifty dollars or imprisoned not
58 more than thirty days or both. No commercial kennel shall board any
59 dog or cat unless the owner of the dog or cat presents a certificate of
60 vaccination as required by this chapter. Constables, municipal animal
61 control officers, regional animal control officers, the Chief Animal
62 Control Officer, the animal control officers, and all prosecuting officers
63 shall diligently inquire after, and prosecute for, any violation of any
64 provision of this chapter, and the commissioner shall, upon the
65 complaint of any person that such officer is dilatory or negligent in the
66 performance of [his] the officer's duties concerning the enforcement of
67 any such provision, take such action as [he] the officer deems
68 necessary to secure such enforcement.

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Technical changes were made throughout the bill for purposes of gender neutrality.

ENV Committee Vote: Yea 19 Nay 0 JF C/R JUD

JUD Committee Vote: Yea 39 Nay 0 JFS-LCO

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Minimal Revenue

Affected Agencies: Department of Agriculture, Judicial
Department

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation**State Impact:**

Increasing the fine from \$25 to \$250 for violating animal quarantine orders for dogs, cats, and other animals and violating laws related to kennels or restraining or destroying dogs or cats is anticipated to minimally increase revenue. During 1998 and 1999 a total of \$250 from fines was collected.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5052

AN ACT CONCERNING ENFORCEMENT OF VIOLATIONS OF PROVISIONS REGARDING CERTAIN COMPANION ANIMALS.

SUMMARY:

This bill increases, from \$25 to \$250, the maximum fine for violating animal quarantine orders for dogs, cats, or other animals that bit or attacked people. By law, the animal's owner may also be imprisoned for up to 30 days.

It increases, from \$25 to \$250, the minimum fine for violating laws related to kennels or restraining or destroying dogs or cats, while eliminating the maximum penalty of \$50. By law, the violator may also be imprisoned for up to 30 days.

The bill makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2000

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 19 Nay 0

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 39 Nay 0